

REMARKS

Claim 12 has been amended to distinguish over the cited art more clearly. Claim 22 has been amended to correct an inadvertent grammatical error.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to reemphasize that that the process described in Fu is different from step [1] of the present invention. Specifically, in step [1] of the present invention, the isothiocyanic acid salt (5) and the hydroxyl derivative (6) are first mixed to react with each other, and the chloroformic acid derivative (7) is then added to obtain (8). In contrast, the process of Fu teaches that MSCN, which corresponds to the isothiocyanic acid salt (5) of the present invention, and ROC(=O)X, which corresponds to the chloroformic acid derivative (7), are first mixed to react with each other, and that R¹YH, which corresponds to the hydroxy derivative (6) of the present invention, is then added.

Step [1] of the present invention has the merit of providing a reaction mixture containing the desired product, the intermediate compound (8), of a yield and purity high enough to be directly applicable to the following steps [2] and [3]. In contrast, as discussed in the March 22, 2004 Amendment, in the case of Fu the results of Examples 1 and 4 indicate that a substantial amount of ROC(=O)X is left unreacted in a reaction mixture, and that, as is evident from the second scheme in column 2 of the specification, the process of Fu has the disadvantage of not being able to provide an adequate yield and purity of the desired product.

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No.: 10/074,014

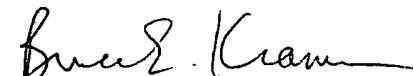
Attorney Docket No.: Q68466

Thus, for the reasons set forth in the March 22, 2004 Amendment as well as the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over Takiguchi in view of Fu, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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